AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the last paragraph on page 16 with the following amended paragraph:

Not all systems can use the DSC comments provided in PostScript. For systems which cannot, this embodiment of the invention can be [[implements]]implemented by using normal imaging commands, but with a special code that denotes to "listening" software that special information is forthcoming, but which causes no harm to software that is not prepared to handle object type or printer-independent print-quality characteristics information from the PostScript data stream. An example is to use the "moveto" command to move to a predesignated location well off the imagable area of a page (for example, an (X_{min}, Y_{min}) coordinate would likely be off any realistic imagable page), and then use the PostScript "show" command to indicate a text string that actually contains object or printer-independent print-quality characteristics information. The routine that handles "moveto" in the system imager is modified to identify the predesignated (X_{min}, Y_{min}) coordinates, and sets a flag. The "show" procedure of the imager is modified to consult the flag, and, if set, to interpret the string not as text to be shown but as object or printer-independent print-quality characteristics information to be stored at the appropriate location. Any imaging system not so modified would simply image a text string off the page (a relatively quick process), and the page image itself would not be changed.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 19 with the following amended paragraph:

System 150 provides a method and system by which the printer-independent print-quality characteristics are used to switch imaging actions within a page to produce an optimally printed page. For each registered media, each printer-independent print-quality characteristic is automatically mapped to an extensible list of printer-and-media-dependent imaging actions (choice of halftone, color correction, black treatment, trapping boundary conditions, compression, etc.). For example, each printer for each media will map the printer-independent print-quality characteristic "sharp edges" to the set of imaging actions that best advance the goal of creating sharp edges. System 150 also provides for user control, however, in that it provides

an output user interface 36 [35] which allows a user to change the mapping of any printer-independent print-quality characteristic to a different list of imaging actions. User interface 36 also allows a user to define a new printer-independent print-quality characteristic by linking it to a list of imaging actions. System 150 applies, at the correct point in the imaging chain, all imaging actions as specified to produce a page optimized according to the printer-independent print-quality characteristics of the page creator.

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following amended Abstract of the Disclosure:

A printing system for use in printing objects of any of a plurality of different object types includes a printer; and a printer control device with a user interface having a first option for associating printer-independent print-quality characteristics with a selected object type to be printed by [[said]]the printer. A printer-independent print-quality characteristic is an instruction associated with an element, such as object type, in an electronic page which indicates printer-independent features that are preferentially emphasized when printing the element. Examples of printer-independent print quality characteristics include "make sharp edges", "reduce mottle", "distinguish neighboring colors", "reduce moiré", "distinguish tone and edges", "maximum tone depth", "perceptual colors" and "compress without loss of detail". The printing system may also include a device for retrieving printer-independent print-quality characteristics associated with a document to be printed by [[said]]the printer and for associating printer-dependent imaging actions with the printer-independent print-quality characteristics.